

MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room  
Fourth Floor, John A. Hannah Building  
608 West Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

March 18, 2015  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, Secretary  
Dr. Pamela Pugh Smith, Treasurer  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny, NASBE Delegate  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Dr. Richard Zeile  
Ms. Karen McPhee, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, Michigan Department of Education

**Special Meeting**

I. CALL TO ORDER – 9:36 a.m.

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Austin to lead the meeting, which was convened for the purpose of interviewing finalists for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Mr. Austin reviewed the interview process.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh Smith, Ramos-Montigny, Straus,  
Ulbrich, Weiser**  
**Absent: Zeile**

**The motion carried.**

### III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Schneider introduced the members of the State Board of Education.

### IV. INTERVIEW OF BRIAN WHISTON

Mr. Austin introduced Mr. Brian Whiston, Superintendent, Dearborn Public Schools.

Mr. Austin outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview process.

The interview with Mr. Whiston began at 9:43 a.m. and ended at 10:52 a.m.

Dr. Zeile joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

### V. RECESS

The Board recessed at 10:52 a.m. and reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

### VI. INTERVIEW OF VICKIE MARKAVITCH

Mr. Austin introduced Dr. Vickie Markavitch, Superintendent, Oakland Schools.

Mr. Austin outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview process.

The interview with Dr. Markavitch began at 11:07 a.m. and ended at 12:27 p.m.

### VII. RECESS

The Board recessed at 12:27 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

### VIII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MR. JOHN C. AUSTIN

Mr. Austin welcomed State Representatives Jeff Irwin, David Rutledge, and Adam Zemke, and thanked them for attending the Board meeting.

### IX. INTERVIEW OF SCOTT MENZEL

Mr. Austin introduced Mr. Scott Menzel, Superintendent, Washtenaw Intermediate School District.

Mr. Austin outlined the procedures that would be followed during the interview process.

The interview with Mr. Menzel began at 1:10 p.m. and ended at 2:21 p.m.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

The following people offered comments supporting Scott Menzel for Superintendent of Public Instruction:

1. Dave Campbell, Superintendent, Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency, Kalamazoo, Michigan.
2. Gregory A. Peoples, Ypsilanti, Michigan.
3. Janice Pardy, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
4. Lori Tubbergen Clark, Superintendent, Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency, Fremont, Michigan.
5. Michelle Charron-Witt, Co-President, Livingston Intermediate Professional Staff Association, Howell, Michigan.
6. Pam Westmeier, Livingston Intermediate Professional Staff Association, Howell, Michigan.
7. Gregory and Patrice Myers, Ypsilanti, Michigan.
8. Representative Adam Zemke, Ann Arbor, Michigan (in attendance at meeting and submitted letter, but did not speak).

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed at 2:43 p.m. and reconvened at 3:01 p.m.

XII. DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Mr. Austin expressed thanks to all of the applicants, semi-finalists and finalists who applied to be the next Superintendent of Public Instruction. He said their ability and willingness to step forward and engage in the process and discussion about the future of education in Michigan is much appreciated.

Mr. Austin asked each board member to share reflections on each of the three finalist's strengths and weaknesses relative to the established goals.

Discussion followed.

**Dr. Zeile moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the candidate pool be narrowed to Scott Menzel and Vickie Markavitch.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Ramos-Montigny, Weiser, Zeile**  
**Nays: Austin, Fecteau, Pugh Smith, Straus, Ulbrich**

**The motion failed.**

**Mr. Austin moved that the candidate pool be narrowed to Brian Whiston and Vickie Markavitch.**

**There was no second for the motion.**

Further discussion followed regarding all three candidates.

XIII. RECESS

The Board recessed at 4:30 p.m. and reconvened at 4:39 p.m.

XIV. DISCUSSION AND SELECTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (continued)

Following discussion, a motion was made.

**Dr. Zeile moved, seconded by Ms. Pugh Smith, that the State Board of Education (1) offer the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction to Mr. Brian J. Whiston, and (2) authorize the Board President to work toward successful negotiation of a final contract.**

Mrs. Weiser said that she has confidence that Mr. Menzel possesses the attributes needed for the job. She said that although she will be voting no on the motion, she will work with Mr. Whiston.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Austin – Aye  
Fecteau – Aye  
Ramos-Montigny – Aye  
Pugh Smith – Aye  
Straus – Aye  
Ulbrich – Aye  
Weiser – Nay  
Zeile – Aye**

**The motion carried.**

Mr. Austin said the Board is offering the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction to Mr. Brian Whiston. He congratulated Mr. Whiston and thanked the candidates. Mr. Austin turned the meeting over to Mr. Flanagan.

Mr. Flanagan congratulated Mr. Whiston and thanked the Board for their diligence.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at [www.michigan.gov/sbe](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe).

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fecteau  
Secretary